

FLARING

What is it?

Our flare is an important part of our production process and a vital safety feature. It allows us to safely burn off what is primarily non-toxic ethane or ethylene gas high off into the atmosphere.

Why do we need it?

Our plant is a single line process – ethane gas enters at one end and is then turned into ethylene liquid gas that exits at the other. As the process is all linked, if a piece of machinery goes offline or needs maintenance we safely divert the gas to the flare while our team sort it. The gas flows constantly down a pipeline from the North Sea – it's not possible to just push it back up. It would also take around three days to fully stop the flow – but as Mossmorran is linked into the supply of gas to homes across Scotland this is something we would all want to avoid. Flaring allows us to keep our other machinery running, which helps us to come out of the flare much quicker than if we stopped them and had to re-start.

Is it safe?

Yes. Flaring is completely safe and used all around the world. If we need to use our flare because a piece of machinery has gone offline it is essentially either ethane or ethylene that goes in. What comes out is primarily water vapour and CO₂ – think of it as a big version of the Bunsen burner you used in science class at school.

Why is it sometimes noisy?

It is actually the steam we inject to avoid a smoky flare that causes the noise and vibration.

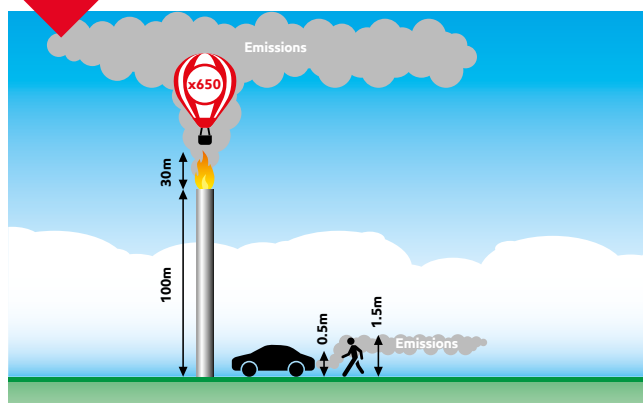
Why is it sometimes smoky?

This happens until we add steam to get the best combustion.
 The smoky flare is just soot – as you would find from a house chimney.
 All evidence shows that there is no impact on air quality from the flaring process.

What are you doing to reduce any impact on communities?

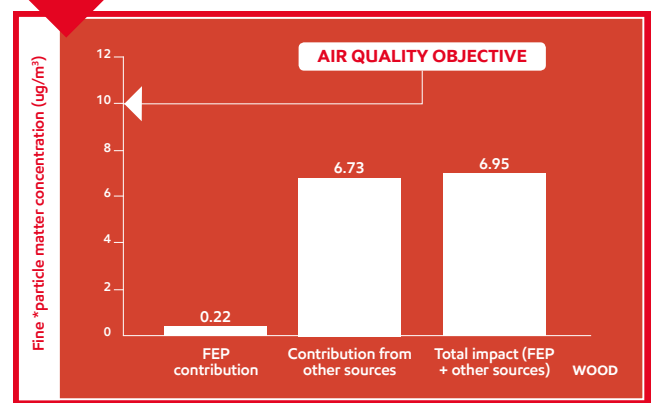
We are investing millions of pounds to reduce the frequency and impact of flaring.
 See Fact File No. 3 for details.

Flare v Traffic



The FEP flare is 100 metres above ground, meaning that anything that comes out goes high into the atmosphere. The heat released by the flare would keep 650 hot air balloons in the air – pushing it even higher. In comparison, emissions from traffic occur at ground level and much closer to people before they disperse.

No risk to air quality



Even if our flare was to burn smoky for 365 days at high volume (this would never happen), the amount of materials released is so insignificant that they would not pose any risk to local air quality.

**Particulate matter is the term used to describe particles of soot (carbon), metals or inorganic salts.*

EXPERT VIEW

“It is highly unlikely for FEP to impact the local air quality of people in Fife.”
 WOOD PLC July 2019

“Initial air quality monitoring continues to be in line with previous monitoring and shows no cause for concern.”
 SEPA August 2019

“No air quality issues in the vicinity of Mossmorran or Braefoot Bay were identified”
 Fife Council 2018 Air Quality Annual Progress Report

“Emissions from Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay continue to pose no significant risk to the health of members of the local community.”
 Independent Air Quality Monitoring Group Oct 2018